AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Original) A method to systematically analyze a next generation telecommunications network to result in creating a provisioning plan and procedures for provisioning the network to provide services for one or more subscribers, the method comprising the steps of:

creating and storing information that represents a logical decomposition of the next generation network into a plurality of discrete functional areas;

analyzing the information representing the functional areas to identify one or more provisioning requirements for each of the functional areas;

defining one or more provisioning procedures and identifying one or more required provisioning tools for each of the functional areas, based on the provisioning requirements; and

creating and storing a sequence of execution of the procedures and tools as the provisioning plan.

2. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the steps of creating and storing information that represents a logical decomposition of the next generation network into a plurality of discrete functional areas further comprise the steps of logically partitioning the next generation network into a subscriber customer premises equipment area, an access network and core network area, and a switch and other processors area.

3. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 2, wherein the step of logically partitioning the next generation network comprises the steps of determining one or

more boundaries of the discrete functional areas based on classifying devices according to functions performed by the devices in delivering network services.

4. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 1, wherein the step of analyzing the information representing the functional areas comprises the steps of identifying one or more network devices that are involved in each of the functional areas, and for each of the identified devices, determining a setup that is required to enable the identified devices to inter-communicate to provide the services to the subscribers.

5. (Original) A method to systematically analyze a next generation telecommunications network to result in creating a provisioning plan and procedures for provisioning the network to provide services for one or more subscribers, the method comprising the steps of:

creating and storing information that represents a logical decomposition of the next generation network into a plurality of discrete functional areas, by logically partitioning the next generation network into a subscriber customer premises equipment area, an access network and core network area, and a switch and other processors area;

analyzing the information representing the functional areas to identify one or more provisioning requirements for each of the functional areas, by identifying one or more network devices that are involved in each of the functional areas, and for each of the identified devices, determining a setup that is required to enable the identified devices to inter-communicate to provide the services to the subscribers;

defining one or more provisioning procedures and identifying one or more required provisioning tools for each of the functional areas, based on the provisioning requirements; and

creating and storing a sequence of execution of the procedures and tools as the provisioning plan.

6. (Original) A method as recited in Claim 5, wherein the step of logically partitioning the next generation network comprises the steps of determining one or more boundaries of the discrete functional areas based on classifying devices according to functions performed by the devices in delivering network service.

7. (Newly presented) A method, comprising the steps of:

before provisioning a next-generation telecommunications network, performing a systematic analysis of the next-generation telecommunications network by the steps of:

creating and storing information that represents a logical decomposition of the next generation network into a plurality of discrete functional areas;

analyzing the information representing the functional areas to identify one or more provisioning requirements for each of the functional areas;

defining one or more provisioning procedures and identifying one or more required provisioning tools for each of the functional areas, based on the provisioning requirements;

creating and storing a sequence of execution of the procedures and tools as the provisioning plan;

provisioning the next-generation telecommunications network by executing the procedures and tools identified in the provisioning plan in the sequence identified therein.

8. (Newly presented) A method as recited in Claim 7, wherein the steps of creating and storing information that represents a logical decomposition of the next generation network into a plurality of discrete functional areas further comprise the steps of logically partitioning the next generation network into a subscriber customer premises equipment area, an access network and core network area, and a switch and other processors area.

9. (Newly presented) A method as recited in Claim 8, wherein the step of logically partitioning the next generation network comprises the steps of determining one or more boundaries of the discrete functional areas based on classifying devices according to functions performed by the devices in delivering network services.

10. (Newly presented) A method as recited in Claim 8, wherein the step of logically partitioning the next generation network comprises the steps of determining one or more boundaries of the discrete functional areas based on classifying devices according to roles and responsibilities performed by the devices in delivering network services.

11. (Newly presented) A method as recited in Claim 7, wherein the step of analyzing the information representing the functional areas comprises the steps of identifying one or more network devices that are involved in each of the functional areas, and for each of the identified devices, determining a setup that is

required to enable the identified devices to inter-communicate to provide the services to the subscribers.

12. (Newly presented) A method as recited in Claim 11, further comprising the steps of defining one or more individual device settings for the setup and storing the individual device settings in a database for use later in actual provisioning.

13. (Newly presented) A method as recited in Claim 12, wherein the step of defining one or more provisioning procedures and identifying one or more required provisioning tools for each of the functional areas, based on the provisioning requirements, comprises:

identifying one or more of an Element Management System, Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol server, and Domain Name System server as the required provisioning tools;

storing in a database table associations of information identifying the functional areas, individual device settings for the setup, and required provisioning tools.

14. (Newly presented) A method as recited in Claim 7, wherein the step of defining one or more provisioning procedures and identifying one or more required provisioning tools for each of the functional areas, based on the provisioning requirements, includes identifying one or more of an Element Management System, Dynamic Host Configuration Protocol server, and Domain Name System server.

15. (Newly presented) A method as recited in Claim 7, wherein the step of creating and storing a sequence of execution of the procedures and tools as the provisioning plan includes analyzing and resolving one or more inter-dependencies of procedures applicable to subscriber CPE devices, access and core network devices, and switches or other processors.